GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:384
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
EMPOWERED STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXPORTS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE;SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently set up an Empowered Standing Committee onExports to enable it to take expeditious decision on matters relating to export of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition and terms of reference;

(c) the criteria followed in selecting the members for this committee; and

(d) the manner in which it is likely to help in liquidating the surplus stock of foodgrains and in sorting out the problems of exporters of foodgrains?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c)&(d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.384 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19-04-2002 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b),(c)&(d): In order to take expeditious decisions on matters relating to export of foodgrains, a Standing Committee on Exports has been set up with effect from the 11th March, 2002. The said Committee consists of the following:-

1. Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution - Chairman
2. Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Department of Food & Public Distribution - Member
3. Managing Director, Food Corporation of India - Member
4. Managing Director, Central Warehousing Corporation - Member
5. Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce - Member
6. Joint Secretary (FCI), Department of Food & Public Distribution - Member

The Committee has been authorized to co-opt other officers as Special Invitees as and when required.

The mandate of the Committee is to interact with exporters and their representative bodies and resolve issues relating to export of foodgrains.

Since the Committee has been set up to take expeditious decisions on matters relating to export of foodgrains from the Central Pool, the concerned officers of the Department of Food & Public Distribution and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India have been included in it. The representative of the Department of Commerce in the Committee is the Joint Secretary dealing with Agriculture/Foodgrains related WTO matters.The Managing Director of the CentralWarehousing Corporation, which is a public undertaking under the Department of Food & Public Distribution and also stores foodgrains on behalf of the FCI, has also been included in the Committee as a Member.

Expeditious decisions taken by the Committee will remove the operational obstacles, boost exports and help liquidate the surplus stocks of foodgrains available at present.